

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUNICH 02310 290309Z

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UNCLAS MUNICH 2310

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, GW
SUBJECT: STRAUSS ATTACKS SCHMIDT ON LOCKHEED

REF: MUNICH 2304

1. CSU CHAIRMAN FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS' TWO-HOUR SESSION WITH MUNICH PRESS AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 26 AND ONE HOUR FORTY-MINUTE ADDRESS ON MUNICH'S MARIENPLATZ THAT EVENING GAVE CONGEN SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE HIM IN ACTION IN FINAL PHASE OF CAMPAIGN. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESS CONFERENCE AND SPEECH.

2. PRESS CONFERENCE. A. ELECTION PROSPECTS. STRAUSS PROFESSES TO BELIEVE THAT "IN ALL PROBABILITY" CDU/CSU WILL WIN ELECTION. WHEN ASKED TO PREDICT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF NEITHER CDU/CSU NOR SPD/FDP SHOULD WIN MAJORITY, STRAUSS SAID HE HOPED ALL PARTIES WOULD DISPLAY "DEMOCRATIC RESPONSIBILITY". HE DECLINED TO SPECULATE ON VERY REMOTE POSSIBLTY OF CDU/CSU/FDP COALITION
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 MUNICH 02310 290309Z

OTHER THAN TO SAY THIS WOULD DEPEND ON ACTIONS OF FDP LEADERS.

B. BREZHNEV VISIT. SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF CSU AND CDU, STRAUSS SAID: "WE'D BE HAPPY TO TALK TO HIM".

C. STRAUSS AND THE GREEK RIGHT. STRAUSS NOTED THAT THE ONLY GREEK POLITICAL LEADERS BEING TRAINED AT CSU'S HANS SEIDEL STIFTUNG ARE MEMBERS OF KARAMANLIS' PARTY. MOREOVER, CSU HAS EXTENDED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ONLY TO KARAMANLIS' PARTY. STRAUSS ALSO CLAIMED HE HAD PLAYED ROLE IN BRINGING MR. KISSINGER TOGETHER WITH KARAMANLIS WHEN LATTER WAS IN PARIS.

D. CAMPAIGN THEMES. STRAUSS TICKED OFF FOLLOWING THEMES AS ONE OF MOST INTEREST TO VOTERS IN THIS CAMPAIGN: FULL EMPLOYMENT; EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE; FINANCIAL SECURITY OF PENSION SYSTEM; STABILITY OF FRG CURRENCY; EMPLOYMENT OF RADICALS IN CIVIL SERVICE; AND UNEASE ABOUT TERRORISM COUPLED WITH DISSATISFACTION WITH GOVERNMENT'S MEASURES TO COMBAT IT. ALTHOUGH FOREIGN POLICY, ESPECIALLY FRG POLICY TOWARD GDR, HASN'T LOST INTEREST FOR VOTERS, IT IS NOT AN URGENT CONCERN.

E. LOCKHEED (SEE REFTEL).

3. THE SPEECH. A. ATTACKS ON OPPONENTS. LENGTHY SEGMENTS OF SPEECH WERE DEVOTED TO SLASHING AND SOMETIMES COLORFUL ATTACKS ON SPD LEADERS. STRAUSS CHARACTERIZED SCHMIDT AS, INTER ALIA, "A USEFUL TRANSITION FIGURE" TO HELP SPD WIN CURRENT ELECTIONS, AND CALLED ON VOTERS TO TAKE AWAY SCHMIDT'S "POLITICAL DRIVER'S LICENSE". STRAUSS LABELED WEHNER THE "PRODUCER" AND BRANDT THE "DURMMER" IN THE SPD POLITICAL PRODUCTION.

B. ECONOMIC ISSUES. STRAUSS DWELT AT LENGTH ON ALLEGED FINANCIAL CRISIS PENSION SYSTEMS WILL FACE IN 1977 AND STRESSED THAT ACHIEVEMENT OF FULL EMPLOYMENT IN 1977 AND 8 WOULD SOLVE TWO-THIRDS OF FRG'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

C. SIGNIFICANCE OF ELECTION FOR EUROPE. STRAUSS CLAIMED THAT PRESENT FRG ELECTIONS ARE OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE FOR EUROPE'S FUTURE. IF PRESENT COALITION SHOULD REMAIN IN POWER, DRIFT TOWARD EUROPEAN "VOLKSFRONT" WOULD CONTINUE. IF CDU AND CSU SHOULD WIN, THIS WOULD STRENGTHEN SIMILAR POLITICAL FORCES IN OTHER UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MUNICH 02310 290309Z

WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

D. OSTPOLITIK. CDU AND CSU WANT GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS OF EASTERN EUROPE BUT WILL DRIVE HARD BARGAIN IN ALL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THEM. FRG FINANCIAL CREDITS WILL BE EXTENDED ONLY IN CASES WHERE EASTERN PARTNERS TAKE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE TOWARD FRG INTERESTS. STRAUSS QUESTIONED ONCE AGAIN WHETHER EE COUNTRIES WILL BE ABLE TO REPAY CREDITS

FRG HAS ALREADY EXTENDED TO THEM.BETTS

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